

PLAIN TALKS

OCTOBER
1984



What happened to the Ghost of Neches Station?

MAIL BOX

THE COVER

October brings cool, pleasant fall weather to the GSU service area. It's also the time of year to carve pumpkins, stock up on candy for youngsters at trick or treat time and tell scary ghost stories on Halloween.

Gulf States has its own seasonal ghost story which still makes the rounds. In the 1940s, several employees at Neches Station witnessed some unusual occurrences which led to the legend of the ghost of Neches Station. Unfortunately, no pictures of this spooky spirit exist, but the story is on page 6.

John W. Conley
Gulf States Utilities
Conroe, Texas

Dear Mr. Conley:

Our home is on Highway 59 in Leggett. At 3 a.m. Aug. 14, an accident in front of our property caused much damage to the power and telephone lines as well as our cyclone fence. Mr. Masters came so quickly after he was notified that it was hard to believe he awakened, dressed and arrived here so soon. Your crew came early and worked diligently until the repairs were finished.

My husband, my family and I want to thank you and your employees for such prompt and courteous service.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. M.D. Armstrong

Editor's note: B.Z. Masters is a district serviceman-1st class in Corrigan, Texas.

Service Department
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear Sirs,
Just want to thank you for having the electric wires leading

to my house checked last week. The wires from the pole to my house were loose and were dragging on the top of the garage and the house.

Mr. Polo Mouton and Mr. Joseph Cascio from your service department took care of the problem.

These are very fine young men — very courteous and understanding. Please let them know how much I appreciate their caring. They are efficient, did their work well and made me feel secure that the problem was taken care of.

Thanks so much for caring.
Sincerely,
Mrs. Cecile B. Richinse

Editor's note: Polo Mouton is a serviceman-1st class and Joseph Cascio is a shop and field tester, both in Baton Rouge.

Fred W. Kreitlein
Gulf States Utilities
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear Mr. Kreitlein:

We would like to take this opportunity to commend one of your employees, Robert Lyons, for his assistance in unlocking a car. The motor was left running and the keys were locked inside. Mr. Lyons was not only successful in unlocking the car, he was polite and a credit to your company. He refused any payment and returned to his work, but we could not let his assistance go unremarked.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Lois Ashby and
Mrs. Shirley Guitreau

Editor's note: Robert Lyons is a pipeman-2nd class in the Gas Department.

PLAIN TALKS

Volume 63
October 1984

Number 9

Published for employees and retirees of Gulf States Utilities Company. Address all communications to PLAIN TALKS, Gulf States Utilities Company, P. O. Box 2951, Beaumont, Texas 77704, Phone (409) 838-6631.

Executive Editor:

Betty Gavora

Co-Editors:

Susan Huff Gilley

T. J. Reyes

Correspondents:

Dona Austin
Michael Bergeron
Ronnie Bordelon
Barbara Broussard
Ella Brown
Myra Castello
Susan Choate
Betty Dickschat
Betty Dowell
Andy Dreher
Bonnie Duval
Donna Fancher
Charlotte Gautreau
Lisa Gibson
Rhonda Haskins
Connie Herford
Les Jones
Lynda Kapalski
Helen Kennedy
Clint Lilley
Debra Patin
Edith Patterson
Carol Payne
Myra Ponthier
Kitty Prouse
Casey Richert
Mike Rodgers
Concetta Rollins
Greg Russell
D. W. Rutherford
Carol Sharp
Sue Simon
Sheila Soileau
Laurie Tenner
Monica Thomas
David Thornhill
Jean Tinsley
Delores West
Nina Wiley
Angela Wilks
Dianna Winkelmann
Robby Zeringue

Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-81) and return them to the mailroom in the Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.

CONTENTS

PLAIN TALKS

Features:

W. Donham Crawford 1923-1984 4

Former board chairman dies

Sweeping the skies 5

Research project watchdogs the environment

The ghost of Neches Station 6

Eyewitnesses relate 'haunting' experiences

Computers and GSU 7

A new study prepares for the future

Norman Lee becomes board vice chairman 9

GSU president recognized

Introducing new correspondents 9

These people can put you in the news

Fiberglass security poles in use 10

Lighter, less expensive, safer than others

Departments

8 Service Awards — Recognition of employees

12 News Briefs — Community service, honorary degrees

14 Inside GSU — Babies, birthdays and balloons

18 Retirees Update — Parties and honors

19 On the Move — Recent job changes

W. Donham Crawford dies

Former Gulf States Board Chairman W. Donham Crawford died Saturday, Sept. 1, at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont. He was 61.

Crawford joined GSU in 1978 as board chairman and chief executive officer but took medical retirement in March 1982, when doctors diagnosed a disease of the central nervous system. It was later identified as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, known commonly as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

GSU President Norman Lee, looking back on Crawford's tenure, says, "He took over during a time when the company was growing and facing the energy crisis, uncertain world oil supplies and an unstable national economy. Major decisions needed to be made on future energy sources. Don Crawford saw us through those transitions and provided leadership. He was a known and respected leader in the utility industry."

Dr. Paul Murrill, who succeeded Crawford as board chairman, echoes Lee's remarks on Crawford's leadership abilities. "He was a very decisive person who had strong feelings and communicated them well," says Murrill. During Crawford's service, the decision was made to build the River Bend Nuclear Station. "The order to start construction at River Bend is the one he made that will have the most significant impact on Gulf States," adds Murrill. Crawford also oversaw construction of GSU's new corporate headquarters building and urged that it be named Edison Plaza, after the famous inventor he deeply admired.

Crawford was a 29-year veteran of the electric utility industry. Prior to his work at Gulf States, he served as president of the Edison Electric Institute, the trade organization of electric utilities.

When Crawford retired from GSU, he was the only utility leader to serve simultaneously as chairman of the American delegation to the World Energy Conference and to CIGRE, an international technical engineering organization.

A native of Little Rock, Ark., Crawford attended the University of Arkansas and was graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1947. He held a master of science degree from the California Institute of Technology.

Crawford is survived by his wife, Colene; one daughter, Carol Heffler, Haworth, N.J.; two sons, Bruce Donham Crawford, New York City, and Philip King Crawford, Pittsfield, Mass.; one brother, Sidney R. Crawford, Gainesville, Fla.; and one grandson.



W. Donham Crawford

GSU/LSU: Partners in research

Story and photos by Mike Rodgers

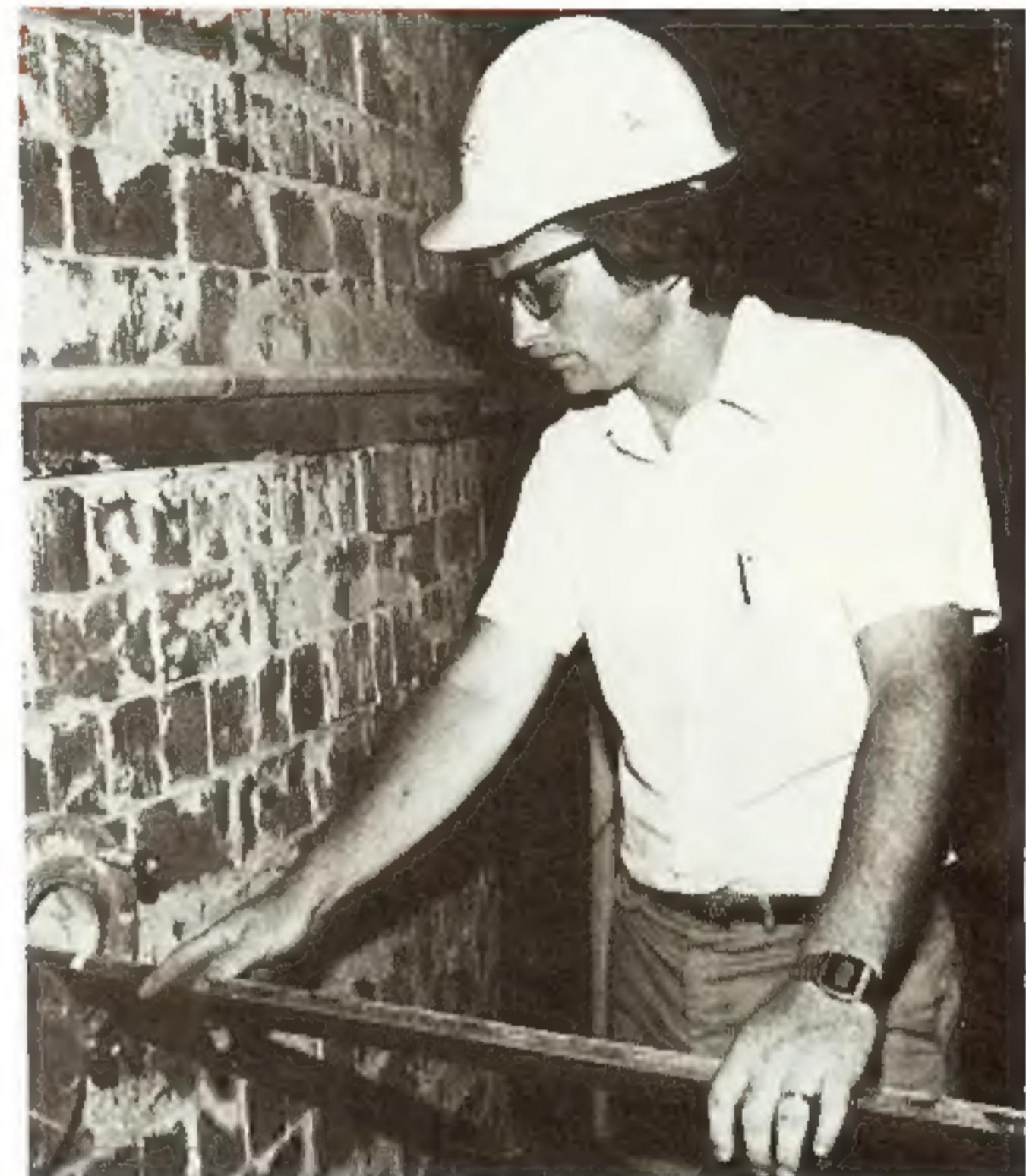
A technician rides an elevator to the 300-foot level of the smokestack at Nelson Coal and monitors the readings on some sensitive equipment, while an airplane crammed with scientific instruments searches the skies over the plant. Elsewhere in various parts of Louisiana, cars with detection gear prowl the streets and highways.

What may sound like a scene from a James Bond film is actually serious, quality-controlled research backed by Gulf States. Dr. Dan Reible, assistant professor of chemical engineering at LSU, is conducting an experiment on the long-range transport of emissions from coal plants. "The effects of these emissions on the environment is the subject of much public debate and GSU wanted to be involved in the scientific studies," says Bennie Hickman, director of civil and structural engineering.

The equipment inside the stack is discharging sulfur hexafluoride, an inert, harmless, non-toxic, colorless, odorless gas into the stack and out into the atmosphere. Instruments inside the airplane track the direction of the tracer gas plume, while cars with air sample detectors locate traces of it on the ground.

"Sulfur hexafluoride can be detected in concentrations as low as one part per trillion," notes Reible, "and up to several hundred kilometers downwind." The data collected will help Gulf States develop reliable computer models to predict how the plume from Nelson Coal will be dispersed.

One of the most important factors in research such as this is the weather. "Weather patterns here from mid-May through September are very predictable and the terrain is flat. This presents us with an ideal situation for tracking the dispersal of

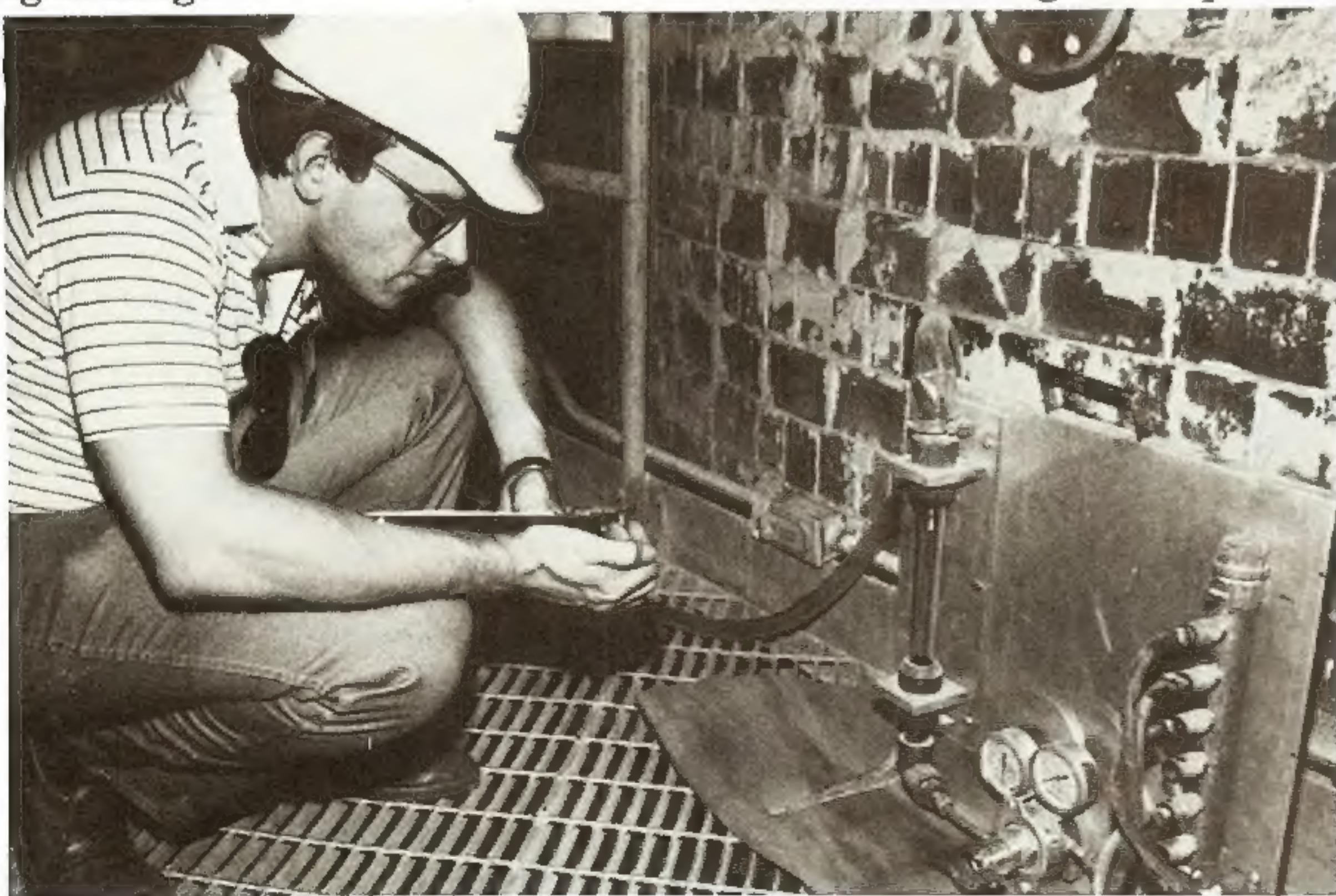


Dr. Dan Reible, LSU, inserts pipe carrying sulfur hexafluoride into stack at Nelson Coal.

the plume," says Nick Worontsoff, environmental analyst for GSU. Worontsoff coordinates the research on behalf of Gulf States, and spends much time working with the National Weather Service to forecast the best available days for the experiment. He says, "We must have clear skies and absolutely no thunderstorms in the area if the experiment is to be reliable."

Everyone involved is quick to point out that this research project will not provide the final answer to the question of coal burning on the environment.

"This may not be a totally conclusive piece of work," says Hickman, "but it is one more piece of the puzzle. We expect to reap a vast amount of knowledge from it."



Nick Worontsoff, GSU environmental analyst, observes gauges monitoring the release of sulfur hexafluoride.

The GHOST of Neches Station

Story by Mike Rodgers

Recently someone said to me: "Have you heard about the ghost of Neches Station?" I hadn't, in fact, but resisted the temptation to urge them to call the Ghost-busters. Mysterious spirits, after all, are supposed to haunt old, abandoned houses in New England, not Gulf States power plants along the Neches River in southeast Texas.

Further investigation, not to mention some well-informed employees, led me to Hal Ridley, operations analyst in Edison Plaza and one of the people who had a close encounter with

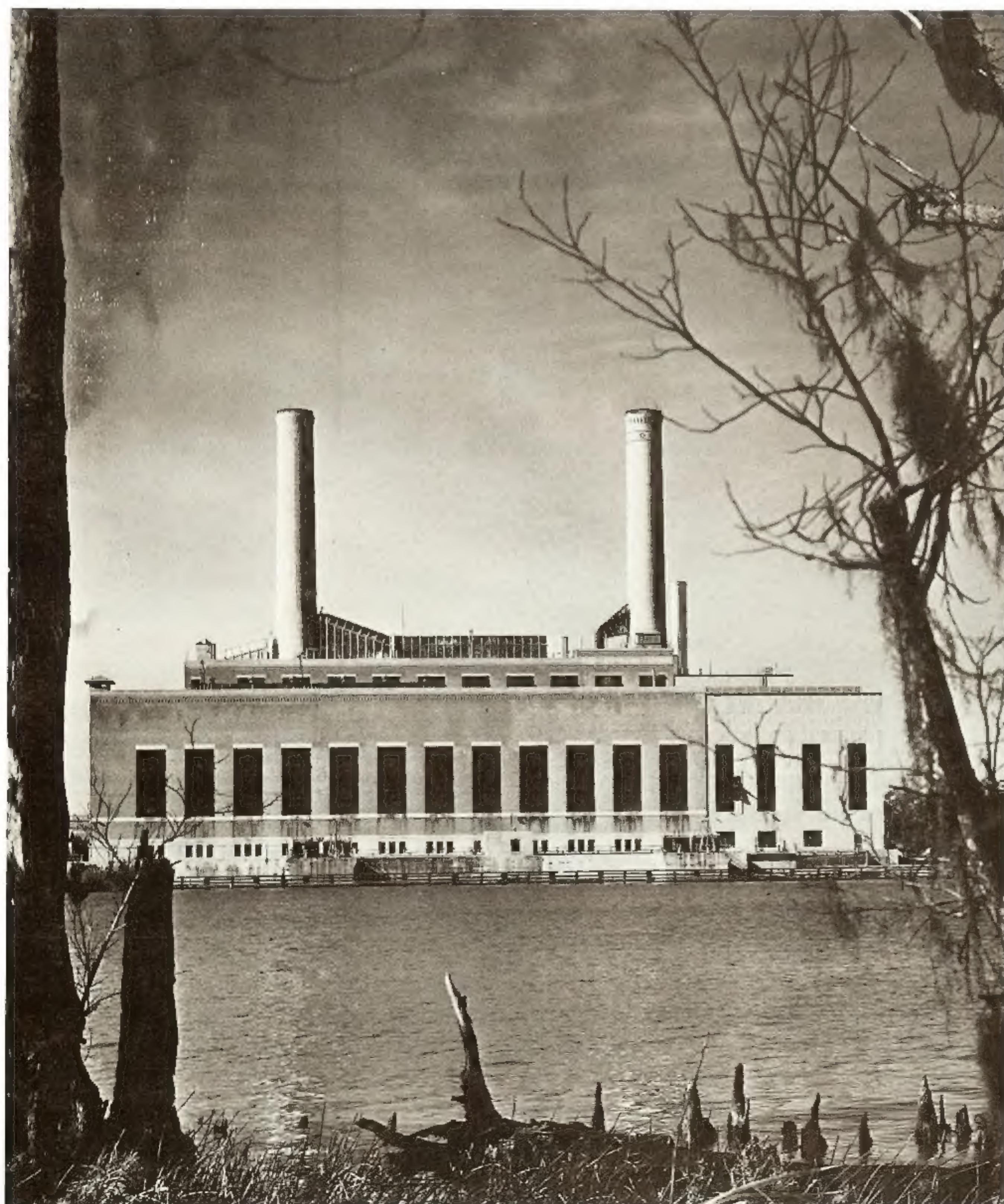
"something" at Neches Station in the 1940s. "I was making boiler fan inspections on top of old unit No. 3 early one morning," he says with a grin on his face and a twinkle in his eye, "when I headed down a stairway and saw something there directly under a light bulb. It had no real detail, but you couldn't see through it. It was teardrop-shaped, short and did not speak or move. I don't know how long I stood there, but eventually I took off. I honestly believe my hair stood on end. Something was there and it wasn't smoke, steam or dust."

Later, Ridley would hear fellow employees tell stories of a ghost in that area of the plant.

H.T. Henriksen, a GSU retiree now living in Beaumont, was also working at Neches Station in the '40s and related his own experience. "Two of us were walking near a boiler," he recalls with a chuckle in his voice, "when we saw something white walk near No. 3 boiler. It looked like a man about six feet tall, although we searched and found no one. There were no other employees in that section of the plant at the time. We weren't scared, just curious."

Another GSU retiree living in Beaumont, Cedric Watler, offered this account of an unexplained happening: "Two of us were taking meter readings when I looked toward No. 3 and saw a light, something moving. I knew it wasn't the other man, since he was in a different area. In the ash alley beneath the boilers I saw a grayish-white shadow with no features. Something was there, although I don't know what." Like Henriksen, Watler wasn't scared, only curious. All three men noted that a construction worker was killed in a fall from the stack at No. 3 boiler, leading to the legend of "the ghost of No. 3."

Although Ridley, Henriksen and Watler related their stories with more than a hint of amusement in their voices, we wondered if the ghost might still be around. "Once in a while I hear employees say there's a ghost in the bottom part of the plant, but I've never seen it," says Neches Station Superintendent Jimmie Smith. As far as we were able to determine, no one has set out deliberately to locate this apparition, or to find out why it prefers to live among boilers, pipes and steam instead of an empty house.



Neches Station in the 1940s.

Computers:

GSU looks ahead



Mary Pete, computer operator, changes tapes on a computer in Edison Plaza.

**Story and photo
by Mike Rodgers**

A quarter-century ago, customer billing at Gulf States meant a mountain of paperwork and a great deal of time. Today, with billing done by computer, it takes 10 times less effort, 50 percent more bills can be sent out in the same amount of time and payments are returned two days earlier. Computers have moved to center stage in such other areas as engineering modeling, rate case data management, monitoring fuel use and more. "It's hard to conceive of our business today without the computer," says Charles Glass, vice president-Texas operations, "and it will be even more important in the future."

Glass serves as chairman of the Business Information Planning Committee (BIP), a panel of GSU officers assigned to study and oversee plans for computer use in the next five years. Starting in 1985, BIP will act as a clearing-house for all major projects involving computer time.

Each project requested will have an executive sponsor to review and justify it. BIP member Tony Gabrielle, vice president-computer applications, points out, "We have one terminal for every eight employees. Obviously it is a growing resource and one that must be used effectively."

GSU's computer operation is headquartered in Edison Plaza, Beaumont. Information from around the system is fed into or retrieved from the mainframe, a large-capacity computer that can store billions of pieces of data, run many programs simultaneously and manage a network of minicomputers and terminals. Demand on the system has grown such that over the Labor Day weekend, it was scheduled to be shut down and expanded to double its capacity. Since many people using terminals may not need all of the features of the mainframe, BIP will experiment with personal computers. "We hope to place about a dozen of them at various work locations, leave them there for six months and evaluate the results. Perhaps

some work can be done on personal computers and ease the demand on the mainframe," says George McCollough, vice president-fuels, materials and special projects.

Beginning next year, all budget unit managers will have to set aside money from their own budgets to pay the cost of computer time. According to Bobby Willis, GSU controller, "This new arrangement will make everyone more aware of their responsibility in using this resource." The panel sees BIP as an effort to guide new technology into Gulf States and to nurture innovation by using computers as a tool. Glass emphasizes, "We have a moral obligation to our customers to continue to improve our efficiency. Our information systems will help us do that."

Other BIP members include W.R. Barksdale, R.A. Blair, W.J. Jefferson, W.E. Richard, E.J. Serwan and A.D. Sprawls.

SERVICE AWARDS

40 years



Joseph Braud
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge

30 years



Isaac Jefferson Jr.
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge

20 years



Glenn A. Tarver
Division Accounting
Orange

10 years



William Johnson Jr.
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



Robert D. Norwood
Div. Acctg.
Zachary



Cecil Tanner
Plant Production
Louisiana Station



James Washington Jr.
Plant Production
Louisiana Station

Board elects vice chairman

Gulf States President Norman R. Lee has been elected vice chairman of the board of directors. The announcement was made by Dr. Paul W. Murrill, GSU's board chairman and chief executive officer, who says, "The board action Thursday (Sept. 6) is in recognition of Norman's long and distinguished service to GSU and its customers." He adds, "This additional responsibility will put Norman in an even better position to continue giving the board the benefits of his vast knowledge and experience. It is a case of recognition following fact."

Lee joined Gulf States 35 years ago as an engineer in Beaumont and worked his way up to president and chief operating officer,

a post he has held since 1973. From his start in 1949 through 1967, Lee climbed the ranks in operations as an assistant general substation foreman, project engineer, division engineer, operating supervisor and operating superintendent in Beaumont and Lake Charles.

In 1967, he became vice president of the company's Baton Rouge Division and 18 months later was named vice president of all Louisiana operations. Lee moved to Beaumont as vice president in charge of all division operations in 1969 and was elevated to senior vice president in 1970. He was elected executive vice president in 1972, a position he held the year before becoming president.



Norman R. Lee

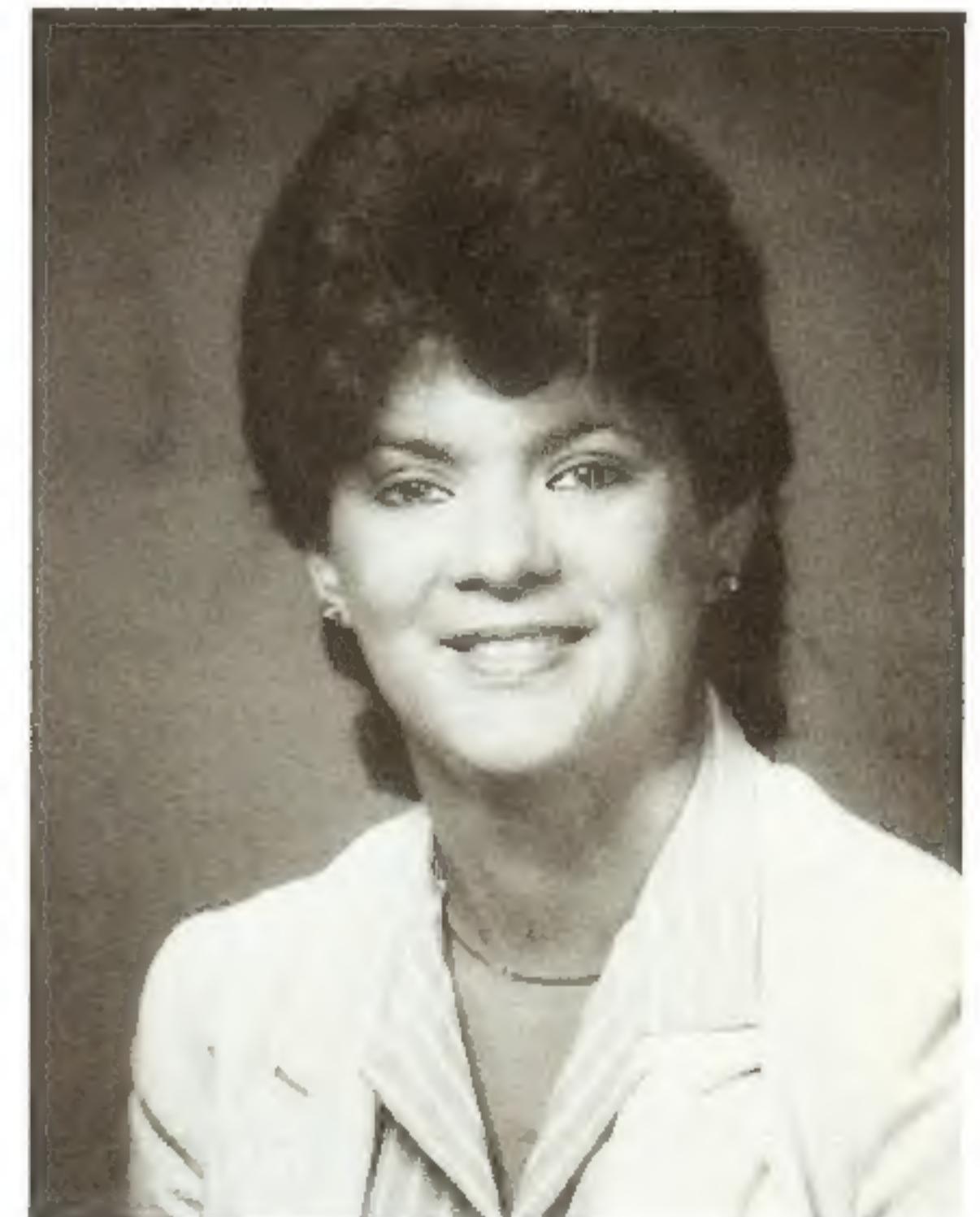
Introducing your correspondents



Debra Patin
Baton Rouge; North Blvd.



Carol Sharp
Baton Rouge; Government St.



Sue Simon
Port Arthur

In addition to the three correspondents shown above, there are *Plain Talks* correspondents located across the GSU system.

If you have photos you would like to see in *Plain Talks* or a story suggestion, the inside front cover features a current and

complete list of all names. Send your photos or suggestions to the correspondent in your area.

Baton Rouge Division tries fiber

by Susan Gilley

Streetlight poles are expensive to replace, but they are often destroyed or severely damaged when struck by wayward vehicles.

In Baton Rouge Division alone, multiply those two concerns by the 10s of thousands of streetlight poles dotting the horizon, and you get an idea of the dimensions of the problem.

But Baton Rouge electrical engineering employees believe they have found a cheaper, safer alternative to the traditional steel, concrete or aluminum poles — and without sacrificing looks. The solution: fiberglass poles.

Fiberglass streetlight poles are also being tested in the Lake Charles and Port Arthur divisions.

According to Kyle Todd, division engineer, and Lloyd Williams, section head-electrical engineering, the division began its search for

the ideal streetlight pole back in the late 1970s, when demand for the steel and concrete poles far outstripped availability. At that time, Baton Rouge was booming, with new subdivisions popping up all over.

Williams says the poles, which the division began using as early as 1981 in some subdivisions, cost about 30 percent less. They seem safer for both the public and for the contractors who install them.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development is now studying GSU's request to use the fiberglass poles along interstate and state highways. Williams says an entire fiberglass pole has a "break-away rating," while the steel and concrete poles have break-away bases, designed to give way when struck by an automobile. Even so, the fiber-

glass pole will withstand extreme weather conditions. Williams points out that the manufacture of fiberglass light poles evolved from the use of fiberglass for sailboat masts and fishing rods, which have been proven highly weather-resistant.

GSU has specifications for the fiberglass poles — they must deflect hurricane gust winds, must have a smooth, silver finish to closely match an aluminum finish and must resist ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

Since fiberglass does not conduct electricity, the use of the poles also reduces the likelihood of an electrocution during installation. Tests are underway by the manufacturer to substantiate the degree of conductivity in certain poles.

In addition to safety and cost



This fiberglass pole in Baton Rouge resembles more traditional ones.

Glass streetlight poles

factors, the poles carry one other advantage. "They're so light, that one person can install them, after the hole is dug. Previously, it would take a truck and a whole crew to install a pole," explains Williams. The poles range in height from 20 to 40 feet.

There may be yet another advantage to the use of fiberglass poles, suggests Robby Zeringue, senior engineering assistant.

"Since fiberglass doesn't vibrate as much as steel, the filaments in the fixture lamps won't break as easily as they do in a regular pole" without special safeguards to prevent such breakage, he notes. That could be a bonus for fiberglass light poles located along heavily-traveled freeways.

The division now has three major street-lighting projects underway utilizing a total of 145 fiberglass light poles. One is located in Baton Rouge's Catfish Town, an historic downtown area undergoing revitalization. The other two are in residential areas.

The fiberglass poles being used in Baton Rouge support the standard GSU lighting fixtures.

Todd, Zeringue and Williams envision a day when fiberglass will be the predominant material used for streetlight poles. Meanwhile, the United States lags behind Europe in utilizing them, because "there just wasn't an acceptable product here until recent years," speculates Williams.

Utilities located near the Baton Rouge Division have followed GSU's lead. Dixie Electric, Louisiana Power and Light and Central Louisiana Electric Company have all begun using fiberglass light poles, reveals Todd.



Robby Zeringue demonstrates how lightweight a fiberglass streetlight pole can be.

NEWS BRIEFS



From left, Rufus Mier, superintendent-marketing and consumer services; Lloyd Kemp, teacher in the Port Arthur Independent School District; and Joe Landry, principal of the Lamar Involvement School.

Plaques recognize community service

Rufus Mier, superintendent-marketing and consumer services in the Port Arthur Division, presented two men with plaques recognizing them for their community service in Operation Storm Window. The men, Lloyd Kemp, a teacher in the Port Arthur Independent School District, and Joe Landry, principal of the Lamar Involvement Center, were given the awards at the May 17 school board meeting.

Operation Storm Window, which began in January 1984, is a cooperative effort among the PAISD, Programs for Human Services, the city of Port Arthur and GSU to help provide low-income elderly people with weatherization.

Newspaper salutes Brenda Broussard

Brenda Broussard, consumer service representative in the Port Arthur Division, was the subject of a complimentary story in the Port Arthur News this summer. Broussard, treasurer of the Essence Cultural and Civic Club, was one of the women singled out for recognition because of devoted time and effort to making the community a better

place to live. Each year, the paper dedicates an entire section to the women selected.

Broussard told the paper she enjoys her activities in the Essence Club because it gives her a chance to see new businesses move into the area and to help share in their growth. Broussard is working toward a bachelor's degree in business administration at Lamar University and has worked for GSU since 1978.



Hickman elected to utility post

George Hickman, senior engineering assistant at the Beaumont service center, is the newly-elected secretary of the Beaumont Utility Council (BUC). Hickman, who is marking his third year on the council, is one of four GSU employees on the BUC. The other Gulf Staters are Sherman Powell, assistant general line supervisor; Ken Gerstenberg, division engineer; and John Beard, assistant general line supervisor.

The Beaumont Utility Council comprises representatives of local utility companies working together to keep each member aware of new major projects and coordinate efforts between each company. One of the group's main goals is preventing damage to underground facilities by locating them in advance of digging or setting poles.



Future Farmers salute Nolen

A Gulf States employee is the recipient of the highest honorary degree given by the Future Farmers of America. Bruce Nolen, supervisor-energy audits, Baton Rouge Division, was singled out at the state FFA convention held in Shreveport in June.

The award praises Nolen for his outstanding service to the Louisiana FFA in 1984. For the past six years, he has worked with the electric energy contests sponsored by GSU and Louisiana Power and Light. Gulf States' sponsorship of the awards goes back to 1949, with FFA students from throughout the state invited to participate.

Nolen's initiative two years ago brought about a change in the energy contests, which were expanded to include energy production and the wise use of energy. In previous years, contests were limited to exercises in electric wiring.

The FFA isn't the only group to honor Nolen for his excellent service. In 1983, Louisiana 4-H Clubs thanked him for meritorious service.

NEWS BRIEFS

GSU safety record noted by EEI

Gulf States' improved safety record is winning recognition from the Edison Electric Institute. EEI is the trade association for investor-owned electric utilities in the United States. The institute gives the Injury Frequency Reduction Award to utilities that achieve a 25 percent or more decrease in injuries, as compared with the average of the previous three years.

President Norman Lee says that 1983 "was a very good year, in terms of safety." He also notes that Gulf States' injury rate is typically one-fifth to one-fourth that of the entire utility industry, as reported by the National Safety Council.

"For the past several years we have intensified our efforts in safety for our employees and the public and this award is a visible sign of the program's effectiveness," he says. Lee adds, "Safety shall always be the first consideration in all company activities and no phase of company business is of greater importance. We will continue this emphasis."

Warren student wins scholarship

A Warren High School senior, Dan Carter Jr., is one of only 12 finalists in the United States and Canada to receive a \$1,000 award from the Thomas Edison/Max McGraw Scholarship Program. The scholarship program is coordinated by the National Science Teachers Supervisors Association and the Council of State Science Supervisors. Gulf States is one of the electric utilities which disseminates information on the scholarship.

Carter designed a propulsion system to correct the orbit of satellites circling the earth.



Mike Durham, manager-occupational health and safety and President Norman Lee accept EEI's Injury Frequency Reduction Award from Board Chairman Paul Murrill.



At the mid-year meeting with the union safety committee, Mike Durham credited a concerted effort by employees for the reduction in on-the-job injuries.



George Crawford, union business manager, and Fred Taylor, substation operator in Conroe, take a closer look at GSU's safety award from EEI during the meeting.

Magazine profiles Dianne Brandon

The *Baton Rouge Examiner*, a monthly magazine published in Louisiana's capital city, profiled GSU's Dianne Brandon as part of an in-depth article about blacks in management and professional positions.

The article, in the August issue, outlines Brandon's duties as a consumer affairs coordinator, particularly her work with area churches and social service agencies in helping low-income customers find assistance in paying their utility bills. Brandon told

the magazine that it is her responsibility to serve as the link between the company and customers, communicating the needs of each to the other. She pointed out that her office grew as Gulf States realized that with rising energy costs, some customers would need help.

Brandon came to work for GSU in 1976 in the Accounting Department and was eventually transferred to Marketing and Consumer Services, where she began her current job in 1978. She is a graduate of Louisiana State University.



Daughter born to Goths

Tommy and Sherry Goth are the new parents of Jennifer Leigh, born Dec. 28, 1983. Jennifer, who is the couple's first child, weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 20 inches at birth.

Goth is a supervisor of production accounting-expenses in Beaumont.



Sonny Hebert, Port Arthur retiree, fills Milton Pellerin's plate with crawfish.

PA Division holds crawfish boil

The Port Arthur Division held a crawfish boil on April 26 to celebrate their safety record. The Division has worked one year without a lost-time injury.

Long announces first grandchild

Karen and Eddy Smithson presented her father, Ray Long, with his first grandchild, Rachel Ann, on May 8. Rachel Ann weighed 9 pounds, 15 ounces at birth.

The baby's grandfather is manager of internal audits in Beaumont's Edison Plaza.



Party celebrates Carroll's promotion

Consumer Services employees in the Baton Rouge Division honored Karen Carroll with a party and gifts when she was promoted recently. Her new position as employment interviewer in Baton Rouge Human Resources began June 16.



Heltons announce new grandchild

Floyd and Alice Helton are the proud grandparents of little Andy Capps, who was born May 15.

According to the grandpa, who is division substation operator in Conroe, Andy was born at 3 a.m., weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces and measuring 19 inches. His parents are Rose and Larry Capps.



Birthday balloons surprise Glover

Charles Glover, district superintendent-Gonzales, found an unusual birthday gift in his office June 29. Daughter Mary celebrated the occasion by sending her Dad a balloon greeting in honor of his 64th year.



Morgan surprised on anniversary

Mike Morgan was surprised by his wife, Charlotte, with a balloon bouquet and flowers on their 4th wedding anniversary.

At that time, he worked in GSU's Conroe office and the couple was awaiting the birth of their first child.

Morgan now works in Beaumont as a coordinator of residential marketing in System Marketing and Consumer Services.



Granddaughter has first birthday

Huntsville retiree E.E. "Cotton" Kaltwasser is proud of his granddaughter, Sarah Elizabeth Kaltwasser, who celebrated her first birthday on June 28. Sarah is the daughter of

his son, Butch, who teaches at Central Tech in Drumright, Oklahoma.

Broussards add Jenna Marie

Jenna Marie Broussard, daughter of Randall and Roxana Broussard was born May 21 and weighed 7 pounds. Her mother works at R.S. Nelson Gas & Oil power station as an equipment operator. Jenna Marie has one sister, nine-year-old Shannon.



Shannon Broussard holds her new sister, Jenna Marie.

Gaspard, Lee collect for Walk-A-Thon

Two employees in the Port Arthur Division were given prizes for soliciting the most donations in the recent March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon. Leonard Gaspard, supervisor-consumer services, received \$50 for collecting the most donations in the Texas district. Craig Lee, senior engineering assistant, was awarded \$100 for collecting the most money in the Texas Division.

Ron McKenzie, Port Arthur Division vice president, presented the prizes to the two men.

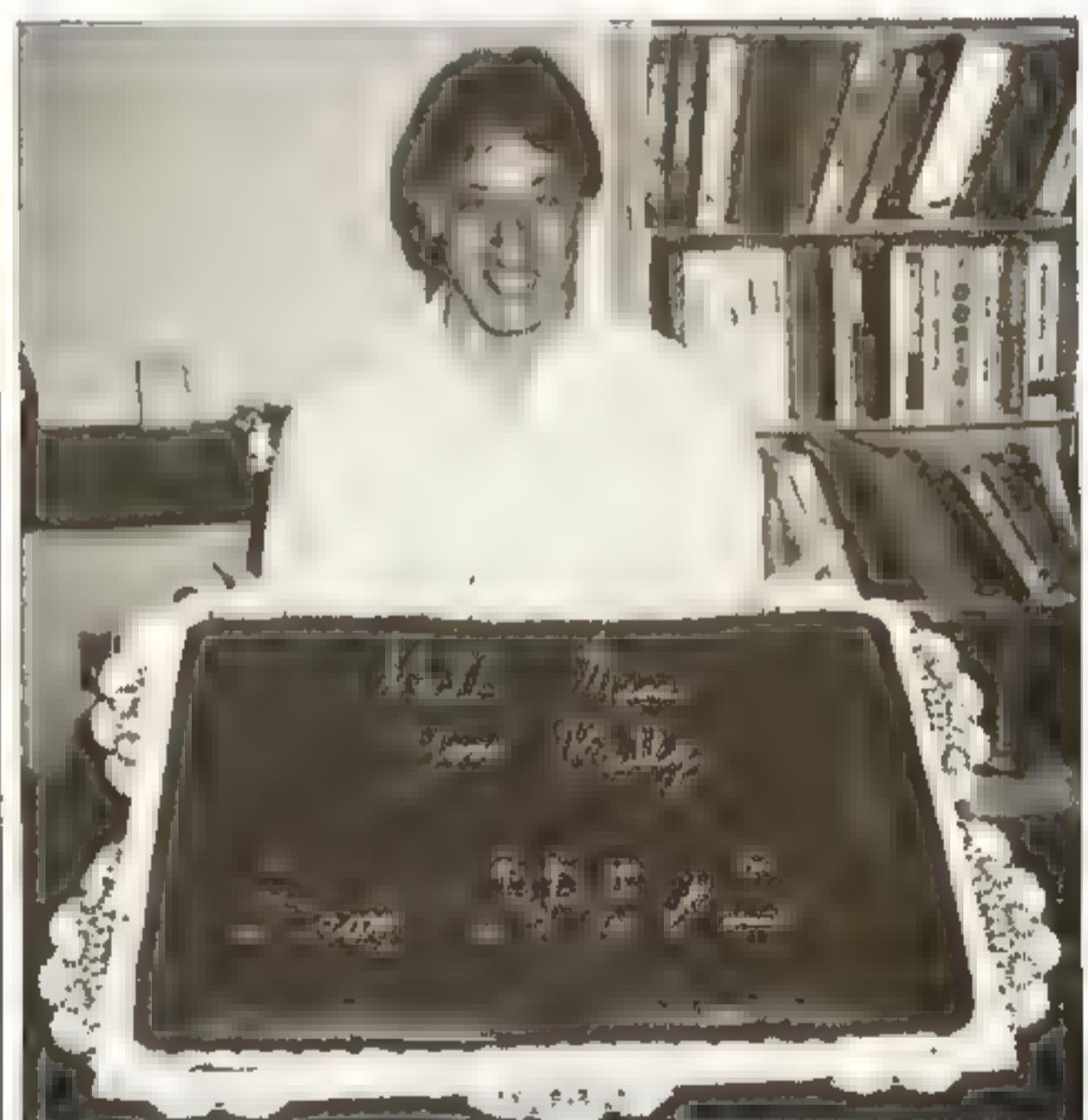


From left, Leonard Gaspard, Ron McKenzie and Craig Lee.

Co-op honored at back-to-school party

Kelly Fort, a co-op in Power Plant Engineering and Design, was guest of honor at a party on his last day of work at GSU. Co-workers presented him with a cake for the occasion. Kelly will attend Lamar University where he is studying engineering.

Kelly plans to graduate in May 1985.



Employee dies in Jennings

Camile Miller, 57, of Jennings died Aug. 3 in his home. Miller was a merit roll craftsman who had been with GSU for over 34 years.

Survivors include his wife, Sally E. Miller; two daughters, Anne Prine of Dallas and Glynda Goodreau of Jennings; and four grandchildren.

INSIDE GSU



J.R. Poole receives a plaque from Ray Kemp.

Poole retires in Port Arthur

J.R. Poole was guest of honor at a retirement party held June 29 in the Port Arthur main office auditorium. Seafood gumbo, with all of the trimmings, was served.

Friends presented Poole with a plaque for his service of over 38 years and a watch, among other gifts.

Poole and his wife, Bernice, plan on taking life easy and doing a bit of traveling. He was a utility foreman-meter at the time of his retirement.



Lance Cpl. Mark Phares (left), and father John Phares.

Phares greets Marine son

Lance Corporal Mark Phares, son of John Phares, a senior engineering assistant in Beaumont, was home on leave from the aircraft carrier Midway earlier this summer. Mark was stationed with the Marines in Beirut, Lebanon, in October

1983, when a terrorist bomb killed more than 200 men. He was listed as missing for eight days after the attack before he was reported safe.



Baby joins GSU family

Ben and Susan Gaugh celebrated the arrival of their first child April 10, 1984. Natalia Mary Gaugh weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20½ inches. Natalia's mother is a test technician-2nd class at Nelson Coal.



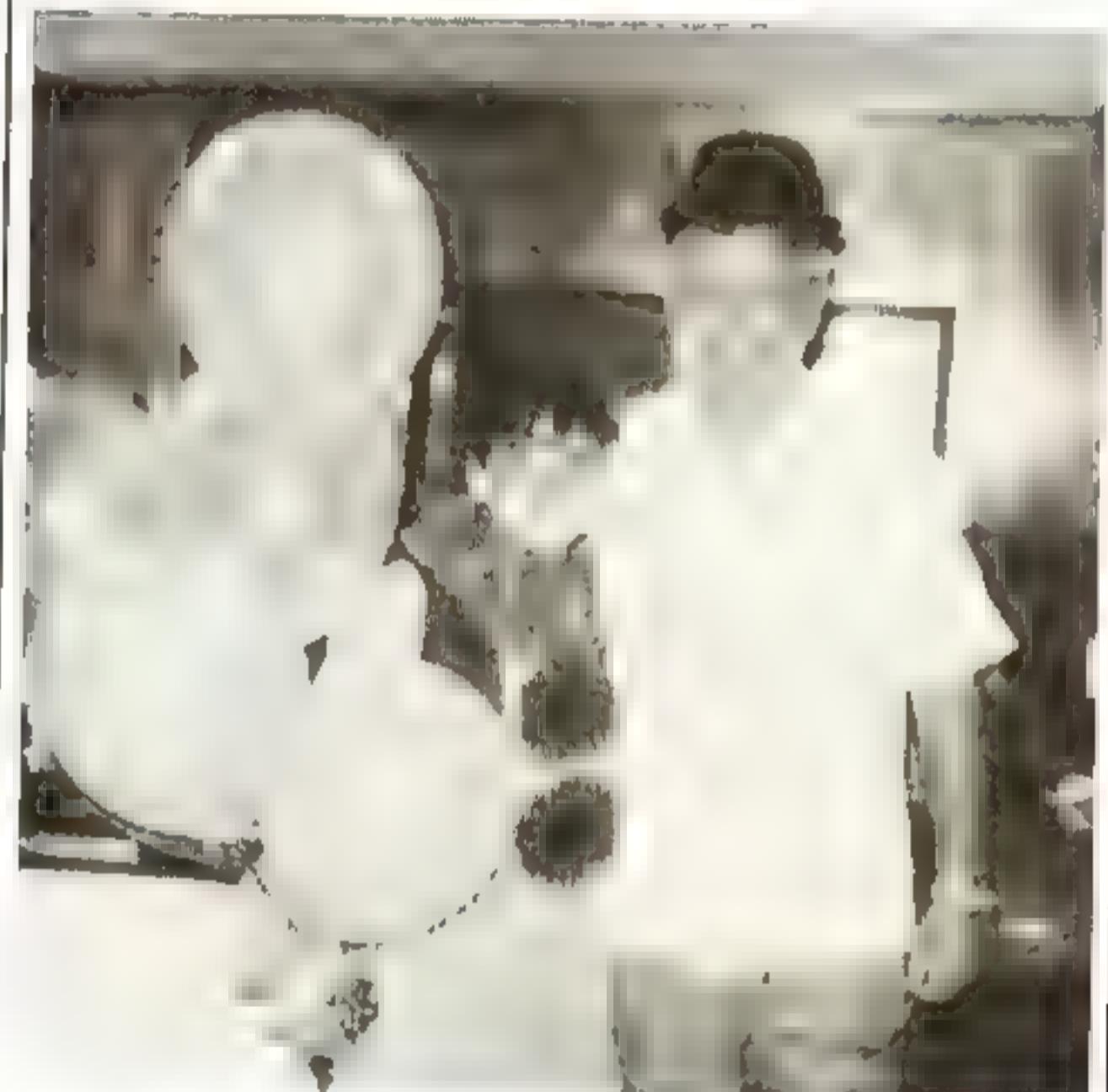
Employee retires in Lafayette

Russell J. Bonnet, assistant to the general line supervisor in

Lafayette, retired on April 1 after 38 years of service.

Crawfish etouffee was served at his retirement party where Bonnet was presented with many gifts. Those gifts included a portable telephone, a watch and a chain saw.

In addition to his many co-workers from GSU, friends from Asplundh and Blume Tree Service attended the retirement party.



Elbert Heard, right, gets a hug and a bouquet of balloons from a smiling clown.

Heard marks 34 years

July 27 was a double-barreled special day for Elbert Heard, safety and health representative in Lake Charles. Heard celebrated his 34th year with GSU and was honored by fellow employees as "boss of the day." He was presented with gifts, a balloon bouquet and was treated to a hot dog lunch at the new T&D service center building.

Party honors employee transfer

Jill Street, departmental clerk in the Marketing and Consumer Services Department, Baton Rouge, was honored by her fellow employees as she prepared to depart for her new position in Beaumont. In July, she began working in engineering design.

Friends presented Street with a cake and an album of pictures to remind her of the friends who will miss her.



Walters greet newest son

Daniel and Carla Walters, Orange, are the proud parents of Andrew Burris, their fourth boy, May 18. Andrew's father is an accounting supervisor. The baby weighed 9 pounds, 1/2 ounce.



Baby born to Dunn family

Joseph Kyle Dunn made his appearance Feb. 29 in the James and Theresa Dunn family of Beaumont. The baby weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was

19 inches. Young Joseph joins a family with many GSU ties. His mother is a clerk in the credit and collection department. Joseph's grandmother, Jimmie Dunn, is a confidential records clerk in payroll while his uncle, Dennis Dunn, is an apprentice in the T&D department in Winnie.



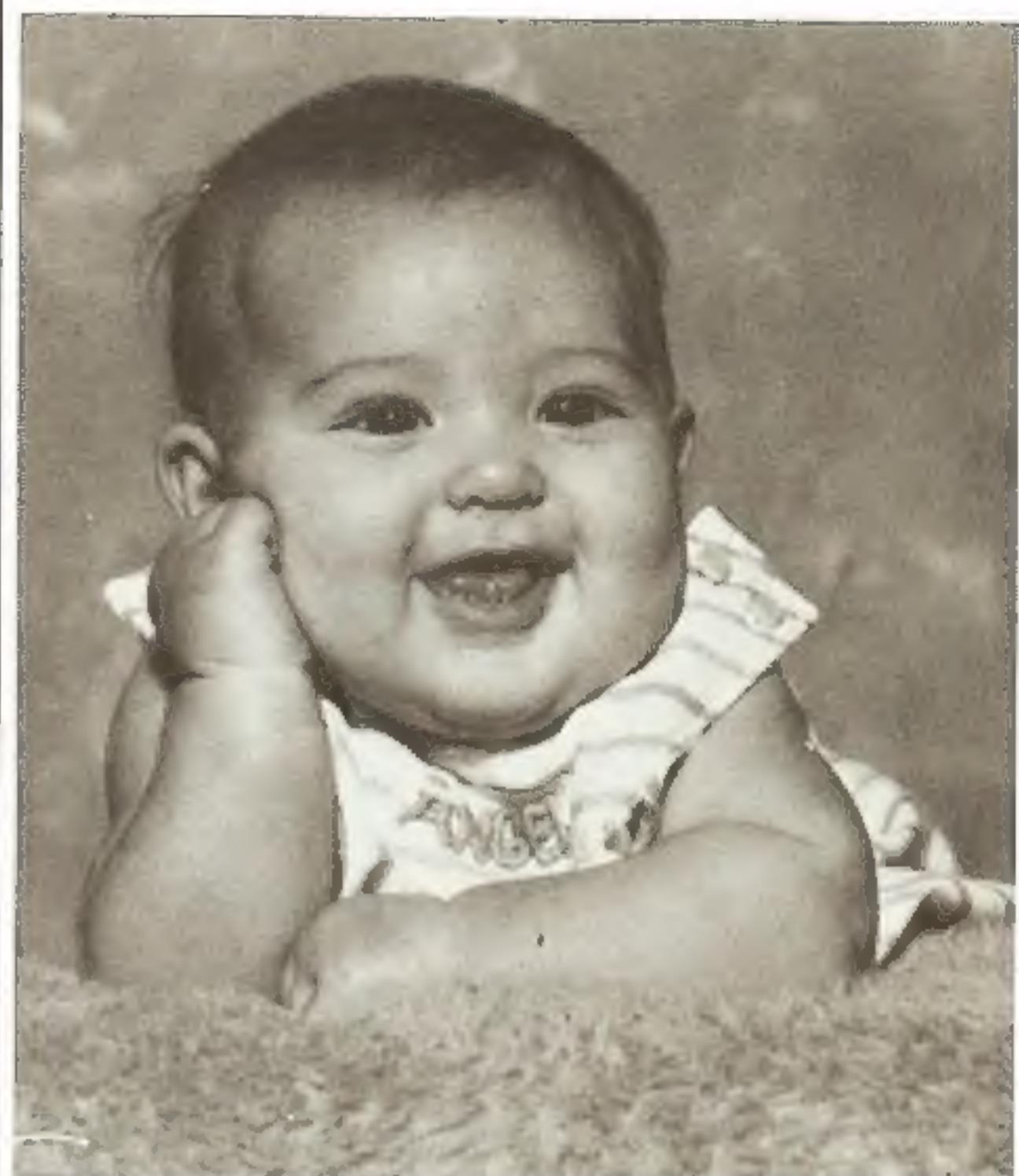
Retirement party given for Doucett

Andrew C. Doucett, who retired July 31 in Lake Charles, was given a retirement party honoring his 37 years with Gulf States.

Doucett, who was a merit roll craftsman, was presented with a bench and other gifts from co-workers at the July 27th party.



L.D. Clarke, left, and retiree Andrew Doucett.



Koch family welcomes daughter

Terra Leigh Koch arrived March 19, 1984, the daughter of Craig and Tessa Koch. The baby weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 inches. Her mother is a graphic technician in Beaumont.



Retiree John Dodd and Delbert Zimmerly, operating superintendent of the Lake Charles Division.

Dodd retires in Lake Charles

John Dodd, a substation truck driver, was honored at a retirement party in Lake Charles. For his many years of accident-free service, the System Safety group presented him with a plaque.

Dodd hired on at Gulf States in 1945.

RETIREE UPDATE



Roy E. Eyler

Eyler dies after illness

Roy E. Eyler, 60, died July 31 in Joliet, Illinois, after an illness.

Eyler, a 26-year employee of Gulf States, retired in May 1984 as assistant corporate secretary. He joined the company in 1958 after graduating from the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in industrial management.

A native of Donnelson, Iowa, Eyler served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean War.

Survivors include a sister, Vera McCormick of New Lenox, Illinois, and a nephew, Bill McCormick of California.

Other deaths:

John Binager Crapp, 87, of Navasota died on July 24. He retired in 1961 as a primary and special tester in the Conroe meter department with 36 years of service. Survivors include his wife of over 67 years, Lydia O. Crapp of Navasota; one daughter, Mrs. Mildred Lyon of San Antonio; three grandsons, Gordan, Lee and Maurice Lyon, all of San Antonio; and one great grandchild, Lydia Lyon of San Antonio.

Earlwood J. Coleman, 73, of Huntsville died on July 27. He retired in 1973 as a labor

foreman-T&D in Huntsville with 42 years of service. Survivors include four sons, Doyle R. Coleman and Kenneth N. Coleman, both of Huntsville, Dalphard E. Coleman of Jasper and Howell Dean Coleman of Crosby.

William A. Thomson, 76, of Lake Charles died on July 4. He retired in 1970 as a supervisor in industrial sales with 36 years of service. Survivors include a son, Maj. James H. Thomson of DeRidder, Louisiana; two brothers, Alfred V. Thomson of Lake Charles and Dr. Quentin R. Thomson of Tucson, Arizona; and two grandchildren.



Alice and Ray Pharo and their painting.

Pharo retires after 38 years

Ray Pharo and his wife, Alice, intend to tour the United States in their new 33-foot motor home now that he has retired from Gulf States. Pharo, who retired on July 1, was a senior engineering assistant.

Co-workers gave the couple a limited edition painting by artist Don Chance, plus maps and a motor guide to the United States. Pharo also received a watch.

Bergeron honored for safe work

August M. Bergeron, a substation mechanic-1st class, was given a retirement party in Lake Charles on Aug. 3. According to *Plain Talks* correspondent Edith

Patterson, Bergeron received a plaque from the System Safety group in recognition of his many years of accident-free work.

Bergeron began his career with GSU in 1945.



Robert Denby, left, general substation supervisor, and retiree August Bergeron.

Rome receives one-of-a-kind gift

Cullen J. Rome can identify the manufacturer of any transformer just by looking at it, according to *Plain Talks* correspondent Helen Kennedy. When Rome retired in Lafayette after 38 years of service on Aug. 1, friends presented him with a lamp made from an old transformer.

Rome was given the lamp at a retirement party featuring barbecue chicken and all of the trimmings. He also received many other gifts, including a weedeater and barbecue accessories.



Cullen Rome and his transformer lamp.

ON THE MOVE

A

Armstead, Gloria B., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Aytes, James D., Orange, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

B

Bennett, Kathryn A., Conroe, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Bernard, Steve R., Denham Springs, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Block, Vaughn K., Beaumont, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Briggs, Milton B. Jr., formerly of Naches Station, to electrician-1st class, Sabine Station Plant Production.

Browning, Robert D., Nelson Coal, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

C

Chagois, Lois E., Lake Charles, to helper, Electric T&D.

Cline, Myra F., formerly of Conroe, to collector, Division Accounting, Trinity.

Colmer, Paula F., Conroe, to consumer service representative, Division Marketing and Consumer Services.

Cortez, Richard, Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Crooks, Catherine M., Conroe, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

D

Davis, Edward L., Lake Charles, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Dickerson, Linda K., Conroe, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

E

Edwards, Rickey T., Conroe, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

F

Flemon, Stevie E., Beaumont, to utility worker-II, Electric T&D.

Fox, Randy D., Beaumont, to garage mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Frazier, Michael K., St. Francisville, to repairman-1st class-nuclear, Plant Production.

G

Golson, Craig S., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-4th class, Electric T&D.

Goodwin, Donald G., Nelson Coal, to repairman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

H

Hall, Timothy J., Winnie, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Hatcher, Clarence R., formerly of Conroe, to district service representative, Division Marketing and Consumer Services, Oak Ridge.

Hebert, Cynthia A., Beaumont, to relayman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Hensley, Jimmie L., Conroe, to storeroom assistant, Electric T&D.

Hillin, Nester M., Beaumont, to utility foreman, Electric T&D.

Hudson, Joan M., Beaumont, to senior draftsman, Engineering Design.

J

Jackson, Mark W., Conroe, to meterman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Johnson, Kenneth D., Willow Glen, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Juneau, Louis E., Nelson Coal, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

K

Kalicki, Joseph S., Baton Rouge, to meterman-2nd class, Gas Department.

Knolley, Roy E., Orange, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

L

LeBlanc, Janet S., Beaumont, to senior stenographer, Corporate Services.

LeBlanc, Patsy H., Beaumont, to meter reader, Division Accounting.

Louvier, Louis K., Port Arthur, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Loyd, Mark E., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

M

Manley, Charles R., Nelson Coal, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Marshall, Gregory R., to mechanical maintenance supervisor, Sabine Station Plant Production.

Marino, Anthony G., Beaumont, to relayman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Mason, Kimberly L., Beaumont, to mechanical engineer, Beaumont Special Programs.

Moore, Maribeth D., Conroe, to storeroom foreman, Electric T&D.

Morgan, Thomas G. Jr., Beaumont, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

O

Olinde, Bradley P., Willow Glen, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

P

Partain, Kristine K., Beaumont, to senior financial analyst, Financial Services.

Penn, Bobby J., Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Philio, Billy R., Trinity, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Pihanich, David A., Nelson Coal, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

R

Roberts, Alvin E. Jr., Beaumont, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

S

Scott, Clare F., Beaumont, to general clerk, Materials Management.

Simmons, Mark C., Beaumont, to utility worker-II, Office Services.

Smith, Charlie G., Willow Glen, to test foreman, Plant Production.

Smith, Thad R., Baton Rouge, to chief construction inspector, Transmission Construction.

Statler, Charles R., Orange, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

T

Thompson, Mark P., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-4th class, Electric T&D.

Tullier, Gary P., Sabine Station, to test foreman, Plant Production.

V

Van Eman, Emmitt C., Vidor, to line foreman, Electric T&D.

W

Williams, Sidney A., Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Address Correction
Requested

PLAIN TALKS

P. O. Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Bulk Rate

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Beaumont, Texas
Permit No. 11



SELL-A-LIGHT Campaign!

Earn 500 points for
each GSU security light or floodlight
sold October 1 - November 30, 1984

- Provide our customers with reliable outdoor lighting
- Provide yourself with points
- Make your division NUMBER ONE in the campaign

Check with your local marketing group for details



GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

Energy Is Everybody's Business